

Richard D. Bayly House  
(now St. James Rectory)  
Back Street  
Accomac  
Accomack County  
Virginia

HABS No. VA-622

HABS  
VA.  
1-AC,  
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. VA-622

RICHARD D. BAYLY HOUSE  
(now ST. JAMES RECTORY)

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Address: Back Street, Accomac, Accomack County, Virginia.

Present Owner: St. James Church, Accomac, Virginia.

Present Occupant: The Rev. Samuel F. Goulathorpe.

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a handsome, early-19th century, brick house used as headquarters for General Lockwood, of the Union Army, during the Civil War.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: A mansion-type dwelling originally built about 1800 (prior to 1811) by Richard D. Bayly as his town house. Several owners followed Bayly. Acquired in 1833 by St. James Church, Accomac, for use as a rectory. Property is still owned by the church and continues to be used as a rectory.

2. Date of erection: 1800-1811.

3. Notes on alterations and additions: Structure is now (1961) in original condition; building partially restored in 1960. Bath added to second floor; adaptation of colonnade to a modern kitchen; new plaster, wallpaper, and other interior alterations to wing section. Present front porch was added in 1920.

4. Sources of information: Court records; personal inspection; Ralph T. Whitelaw, Virginia's Eastern Shore, A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties, 2 vols. (Richmond: Virginia Historical Society, 1951); church records.

B. Historical Events Connected with Structure: During the Civil War the rectory was used as headquarters for General Lockwood of the Union Army, which occupied the Eastern Shore of Virginia throughout the war.

Prepared by Commander John A. Upshur  
Consultant, Colonial Williamsburg  
January 1961.

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## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Nicely proportioned with excellent wood trim both inside and out.
2. Condition of fabric: Very good. Recently restored and rehabilitated.

### B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: Two stories with basement and attic. Main structure 48' x 23', kitchen 13'-8" x 20'-8", detached kitchen connected to main block by enclosed colonnade.
2. Foundations: Brick foundations with molded brick water table.
3. Wall construction: Brick, laid in Flemish bond.
4. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Main entrance has two-leaved door with half-circle fanlight above. Door leaves have three panels each. Door flanked by wood pilasters supporting wood cornice at outside face of door reveal. Door reveal has wood flanks. Rear, exterior door is single door with six panels. Exterior, grade-level basement door is board and batten construction of two leaves.
  - b. Windows and shutters: First-floor sash have nine over six lights and second-floor sash six over six lights; lintels of wood to simulate flat-arched stone and keystone together with wood sills. Basement windows have wood grille bars (horizontal) at front of structure and glazed at rear with six lights. Fixed, louvered shutters on first and second-floor windows on front.
5. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof now covered with asphalt shingles, slate roof on kitchen and tin roof over enclosed colonnade.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Wood, box cornice at eaves with paired consoles and decorated frieze beneath. Cornice returns on itself at ends.
6. Chimneys: Brick, within gable end walls, 21 courses high above roof peak with corbeled out caps, 5 courses high.

### C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: 9'-6" wide central hall with one room on each side at first floor and second floor levels. Former two-story kitchen building connected to main structure by an enclosed colonnade. These elements are on a straight line at the front of the complex.

2. Stairways: Stair at north end of central hall provides access between floors of main structure. The enclosed colonnade and kitchen, first floor, are five risers below the first floor of the main structure with two flights of steps on the east end of the latter.

3. Flooring: Wood floors in main structure and a brick floor in the kitchen.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls and ceilings in main house with wood cornices and paneled wainscots. Kitchen has wood wainscot and plaster walls with exposed joists and floor boards in ceiling.

5. Doorways and doors: Interior doors have six panels. Casings are quirked and have a beaded inner edge and a molded back band.

6. Trim: Room cornices are ornate. Wainscot in first floor, west room has a cap of interlaced bands. The mantel in this room has an architrave bearing bas relief garlands and other floral patterns. The mantel in the east room has a recessed niche in the breast above the mantel shelf.

7. Hardware: Doors have rim locks and butt hinges.

8. Heating: A central heating plant is located in the basement with radiators in the rooms.

### D. Site.

1. General setting and orientation: Sited in a generous yard. The building is approximately 50' from a back street in the residential section of town. Faces south or main elevation faces street.

2. Enclosures: The front facade has a later screened-in porch, 10' x 29' wide, and a smaller porch at the rear.

3. Outbuildings: A small parish house in the front corner of the yard, of frame construction, wood shingle roof and brick chimney.

4. Landscaping: The yard has a number of fine trees and a variety of bushes close to the house. Informal landscaping.

Prepared by Archie W. Franzen, Architect  
National Park Service  
March 1960.